

From: chris-petition@bactram.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:04am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The current Microsoft Settlement is a bad idea. Microsoft has been convicted of antitrust behavior. It has already been established that they broke the law. They were supposed to be better corporate citizens after the 1995 settlement, but they continued their anti-competitive actions.

Any fair resolution to this case must address at least these points:

- * Oversight to make sure that they don't continue. This oversight must really be able to stop bad behavior.
- * Microsoft should publish ALL Application Programming Interfaces to all of its products. This includes standard API calls, file formats and network protocols. And this means ALL API calls, file formats and network protocols. As a programmer I've been blocked by undocumented API features that allow Microsoft's software to do things that I couldn't simply because they wouldn't tell anyone how to do certain things. Basically, all interfaces must be published. They must be available to everyone on a public website, or on a CD for a nominal fee (maximum \$50)
- * Microsoft must publicly publish all APIs 3 months before they release any product that uses those APIs. This includes alpha or beta software. If the APIs change then they must publish those changes and can not release any version of the software that uses those changes for 3 months. All API documentation must clearly indicate what the changes were.
- * Open Source software developers must not be blocked. Open source software is available for free, usually under the GNU General Public License. Open source projects and programmers must have access to APIs to be able to create competing products. Information must not be denied to such projects simply because the projects do not charge a fee.

These are only my top issues. There are many more that must be included to reach a fair settlement for something of the magnitude of Microsoft's crimes.

Thank you.

Chris Riley
2104 Jersey Ave
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076